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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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December 6, 1977

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Congressional

COPIES TO:

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Dear Mr. Harkin:

Before leaving for Argentina, I wrote to say that I would raise the subject of human rights during my visit there and promised to inform you of the results of these conversations.

While in Argentina, I discussed the question of human rights at length with government officials, I informed them that a list of 7,500 names compiled by a number of prominent human rights organizations would shortly be given them through regular diplomatic channels, and this has been done. These are the names of some of the people who have been reported arrested or disappeared in Argentina. I specifically raised the cases of the Deutsch family and Jacobo Timerman with high Argentine government officials and expressed to them our interest and concern. I also met with members of the Timerman family to express our concern. In addition, Patt Derian, the Assistant Secretary of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, who accompanied me on the visit, also raised a number of cases directly with Argentine officials.

During the visit I also had a chance to meet with representatives of the highly respected Permanent Assembly for Human Rights and the leaders of the Argentine Jewish community. Assistant Secretary Derian also met with these and other individuals actively concerned with human rights in Argentina, including families of some of the detainees.

The Honorable
Tom Harkin,
House of Representatives.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade toDate ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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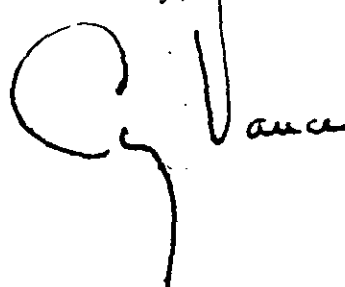
In all of these conversations, we expressed our deep concern over the reports that we have received of human rights violations in Argentina. We reiterated to the Argentine officials that human rights play a principal role in our bilateral relations, and that future cooperation is closely linked to the overall state of human rights.

The joint communiqué, which was signed at the end of the visit, holds out the possibility of progress; the Argentines committed themselves to respect the integrity of the individual person and endorsed the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

I am hopeful that more specific actions will be forthcoming. In the meanwhile, we will continue to press the Argentines on actions to protect the integrity of the person and reestablish the rule of law as part of our advocacy of enhanced respect for human rights.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Vance". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "G" and a cursive "Vance" following it.